



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016

No. 164

Senate

The Senate met at 2:30 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, who alone spreads out the heavens and rules the raging of the seas, make haste and touch our Nation with Your healing hands. Use our lawmakers to provide the checks and balances that will unite this land.

Lord, give them the wisdom to inquire of You, seeking to be Your instruments in the unfolding of Your loving providence. Confound the enemies of freedom until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

Lord, do for this land we love immeasurably, abundantly, above all that we can ask or imagine, as Your will is done on Earth, even as it is done in Heaven.

O God, You are our helper and deliverer. Continue to be our shelter in the time of storm.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT). The majority leader is recognized.

SENATE LEADERSHIP FOR THE 115TH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning our conference came together

to select a Republican leadership team for the 115th Congress. It is an honor to be chosen once again by my colleagues to continue serving as leader. I know I speak for every Republican Senator in expressing gratitude to the American people for entrusting us with this new majority. It is a great responsibility and one that we do not take lightly.

I want to recognize Senator SCHUMER and the new Members of his team as well. Leading a party—any party—in the Senate is no easy task. Our colleague from New York has a tough job ahead of him, but he is pretty tough as well, and I send him my congratulations. Regardless of party, though, one thing is clear. We have work to do. I know each of us is eager to get started.

That includes Senator-Elect TODD YOUNG from Indiana. I have had the opportunity to spend time with him this week and to congratulate him on his truly impressive victory. It was a hard-fought race, and he should be proud of the outstanding campaign he ran. Of course, our friend Senator DAN COATS leaves behind some pretty big shoes to fill. I will have more to say about that later, but I am confident that Senator-Elect YOUNG is up to the task. So we are all looking forward to his joining us on this side of the Capitol come next January.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, election day was tough for a lot of Americans. To say things didn't go the way we wanted on this side of the aisle would be a gross understatement. America is still reeling from this, and there will be even more concern in a few days when the final vote tally comes because Hillary Clinton will have gotten more

than 2 million votes more than Donald Trump.

So I think it speaks volumes that a Democratic Senator entered legislation yesterday that will take a look at the electoral college system. This should not be a partisan issue. It should be an issue that committees of jurisdiction in this body take a look at. Let's listen to some experts talk about it and find out if the system is working very well. It was set up a long time ago, and maybe it should be changed. So, I think it is something we need to take a look at.

It is interesting that just in the last few years—in this century—we have had two winners of elections that got less votes than the losers. I am sorry. We have two elections this century where the losers got more votes than the winners. So we need to take a look at that, and so I hope something is done on a bipartisan basis because no one knows what is going to happen 4 years from now, 8 years from now, 12 years from now. It is something that should be looked at. It is very important for us as a country to take another look at the electoral college system.

NEVADA ELECTION RESULTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there were a number of bright spots on election day, but I have to say, without any question, that the one for us was in Nevada. We scored victories everywhere.

The Koch brothers came to the State and publicly said: REID has been hard on us, and we are going to teach him a lesson. I wasn't born yesterday. I knew. They really didn't frighten me.

In spite of all their untold wealth, they could not affect what we had built up over the years in Nevada. We carried the State by about 30,000 votes for Hillary Clinton, which maybe in California it doesn't sound like a lot, but in South Carolina and Nevada it is a lot of votes—30,000 votes.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S6387